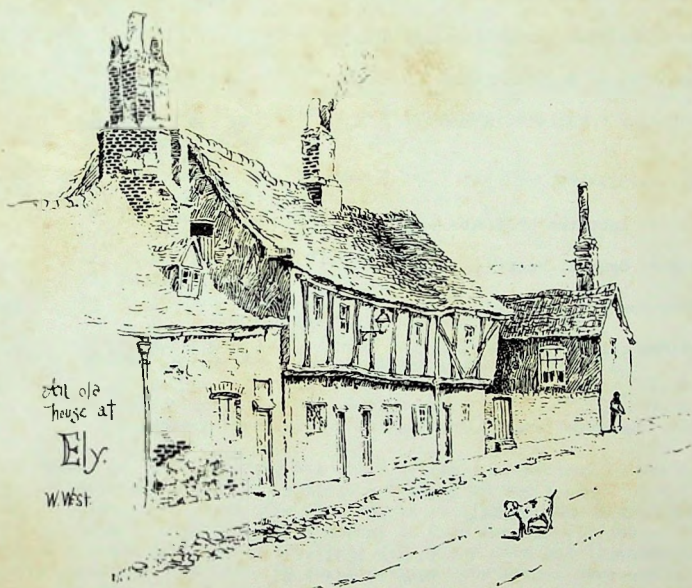


CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL



Bulletin No. 35

1980

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Note: The Editor is always glad to receive articles and notes suitable for publication.

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A FARMING RECTOR of FOWLMERE, 1705-9

By Jack Wilkerson

John Crackenthorpe DD, Rector of Fowlmere 1666-1719, kept detailed accounts of his farming activities, his household expenses and his charitable gifts, and at least three of his account books have survived.

He farmed his glebe on a three field system: Northfield, Southfield and Barrfield, one of which was "Tilth"(a) and one described as "Broake" each year. He paid tax on holdings described as Hoys, Cassander and Parsonage; one tax was Militia "that is for Drum and Colour".

He employed a number of men and does not appear to have paid a regular wage but paid for each job that cropped up. He paid a lump sum for gathering the harvest, both to his own men and to one or two extra hands. The practice continued in this area up to recent times until combines eliminated the need for so much hand work. He did not have a grand settling day at the end of the harvest but paid each man on a different day in 1707 from Aug. 16th to Sep. 30 as follows:-

Aug 16	Ben, son of Jos Wedd for his harvest this year coming ten days after we had begun	11.0
20	Will Thrift	1. 8.0
25	Widow Swann for the use of her horse this harvest	9.6
Sep 8	John Watson his wages last harvest	1.12.0
9	Goodman Thomas Barber " "	1.10.0
10	John Waites	1.10.0
12	Thomas Watson " " "	1.10.0
18	Thomas Eastland " " "	1.12.0
20	Will Brock " " "	1.10.0
	for the use of his horse.	7.0
24	Will Fordham junr.	1.10.0
30	George Carpenter for his years wages (presumably a servant living in)	5. 0.0
30	Rhoda Phipps for her years wages	3. 0.0
	Elizabeth Fere for her services in time of harvest	12.0

John Watson probably received his extra 2/- as a craftsman; he was a regular employee living in a cottage belonging to the Rector. He did the thatching and probably the stacking as well as he seemed able to turn his hand to anything. There appear to have been an old John Watson, a young John Watson and Young John's son John and it is not always clear which is referred to. Sometimes John Watson owed the Rector for more than a year's rent and tithe and then they would have a grand settlement.

John Watson's account for Oct. 1706 reads:-

Half a day mending the thatch of the new barn blown off Sep last (it was blown off a second time and he received nothing)	9
6 days thatching Edward Parrishes barn	9.0
5½ days thatching the Parsonage barn	8.3
for 300 rods used half there and half at Edward Parrishes	3.0
for scouring my half of the brook	2.1
for the good part of a day in scouring ye ditch next the Parsonage Close	9
A day in the garden	10

	4 days proceeding upon Parsons Old Barn, backhouse	
	entry and half a day at Goodey Swann's thatching	6.9
Nov 1	a day of his son at haume cart (b)	6

Thomas Eastland no doubt earned his extra 2/- for looking after the horses at harvest time as he did most of the Rector's ploughing, but although he appears to have been horse keeper, he did other jobs such as threshing seed wheat, hauming wheat and rye stubble faggoting, casting up dung and daubing. He received 4/8 for seven journeys to plough.

Will Thrift was another regular worker who did most of the threshing, but he was paid for each job separately. He thrashed rye and wheat in the Malt house and oats in Nat Crackenthorpe's barn "which because my horses have I pay for the threshing" Nathaniel was one of the Rector's four sons who farmed on his own and as the Rector got older he took over farming the glebe for him.

Other duties carried out by Will Thrift were daubing, (c) carting, spreading dung, picking apples, and haume cart. He mentions that harvest began on July 14th that year; this would be July the 25th by our present dating as the calendar was altered in 1752 by eleven days.

Will also spent some time hedging in Lynch Lane (still prominent in Fowlmere) and against the kitchen garden, he faggoted the wood and also fetched some wood from Rofeway in Chrishall.

He had some stock of his own as he paid 6d per week to put his cow in the Rector's yard during the winter. Together with other men in the village he probably had grazing rights in the Open Field and perhaps a paddock. In Barley at the same period no less than 36 men owned one or more cows.

Will Thrift's son Will helped the economy by keeping pigs, for the Rector paid him 8/4 for "a shoate or young hogg". Thomas Watson was a regular worker and received 10d per day. He worked five days between April 13th and 20th; "Thursday that week he was married", and five days more before April 27th and received 8/4. He carried out small items of business on behalf of his employer and was reimbursed for money paid to "Richard Carter for stub money for a ring of wood in Chrishall and a groat he spent there. 2/4. and at a later date 5/6 for eight pair of gloves "whereof George's cost a shilling and 6d allowed for himself a pair against the harvest." Sometimes he went to plough and at other he spent in the garden "nailing up the vines".

Will Brock sen. was the Church clerk among other things; he was paid "For trimming myself four full quarters since our last reconning 12/0"

"Trimming my son Nathan and I think my son Sam 29 times in all @ 2d.	4/10"
"His clerk's wages due to him Sep 29 last	6/8"
"For his wages last harvest though I told him withall that I would give him but fl.8.0 if we lived another harvest together	fl.12.0"

Will must have been in failing health and unable to do the work for the following April there is an entry:-

"Paid to Widow Brock for her husband trimming myself in his lifetime two quarters	6/0"
"For the dust behind the church door	1/6"
"For seven bushels of pigeon dung out of the steeple upon my three stetches (d) in Waterden Shott	2/4"

Will Fordham was another case of "Old Will and Young Will" Young Will was a ploughman and the Father a handyman carpenter. He made a new wheelbarrow for the garden and repaired the wagon shafts. He mended the stables and provided new barn doors and poles for the garden. Will Fordham also had a small holding as he paid the Rector for wintering his calves, he also paid small tithes, 6/- for two cows and calves for three years.

Goodman Thomas Barber also paid small tithes and for wintering his bullocks. He paid 4/6 for two stetches of haume.

Richard Jackson a plumber from Royston, was paid 1/- per year to keep the pump in order, and he repaired the chancel window with leaded glass and 14 new "quaries" (square or diamond panes). He mended the Parsonage window "in Nat's bedroom" and supplied an elm bucket for the pump.

Thomas Fairchild was the village blacksmith and he appears to have let his account run on for twelve months before settling up for the numerous jobs he did. He was paid in December for replacing all the teeth in two drag harrows and removing the horse shoes since January and seventy seven new shoes in that time £1.5.8.

He did many jobs unconnected with the farm, such as supplying 12½lbs of iron for the oven door, for mending the latch to the little gate out of the great yard in the back yard. he received 1d. For a shovel to the coppers in the backhouse 3/- ("I think very dear"). For mending the irons at the bottom of the great copper and three pounds of new iron cross the mouth of the copper to hold the other up". For making an iron bar to the chancel window, the iron my own but in many pieces a good part of it being of cart nails, and mending the candlestick into the bargain."

Goodman Soule was the wheelright who, apart from the usual work of replacing rotten spokes and felloes in the wheels of the tumbril carts and waggons, supplied a new plough beam and was paid 2/6 for a day's work and half a day of his son Will for sawing and hewing out a mould board and other plough timber.

Will Numan of Barrington, described as the Collar maker, visited the farm to repair the harness. He paid 4/6 for half a horse hide and 1/6 for a calf skin and 4/- for cloth and buckles, a pair of bells and work. He supplied a pair of plough traces of hemp already made for work and charged for work done on Becket Fair Day. (e)

Robert Harvey was one of those characters found in every village who will undertake any job however difficult or unpleasant. Sometimes he was at plough or dung cart but he received 2/3 for "mending the backhouse chimney that was fired, but we were mercifully saved from great harm". He also spent a day putting a new hearth in the kitchen and mending the floor, and three days under-pinning the hogsties, backhouse entry and kitchen and a day paving the chancel, another day

underpinning the barn next the street and rough casting the backhouse and entry.

He received 6d for "a little above a day in emptying the fell-mongers pit and spreading about my close". (a fellman sells skins).

Young Robert Harvey occasionally helped in the garden. Ralph Carpenter was another husbandman who undertook the slaughtering of animals; he and others were paid for "my bull new killed", and on Dec 23 he received 4d for killing "the last of our bacon hoggs", no doubt to supplement the Christmas fare. He also received 4d "for killing a hogg for us, the old sow," and 2/- "given at my order having his cow killed (or supposed) by our boar". Goodman John Waites received herdsman's wages for milking the Rector's cows for him.

"Old Featherstone" had apparently reached the age when titles and Christian names are dispensed with; he received 1/2 for bottoming two chairs. He repaired Eastland's fan and little basket, the chaff sieve in the stable, the sieve in the barn and the handle of a basket. Richard Haycock was a cobbler and apart from mending the Rector's shoes he supplied leather to mend the pump, nails to nail up "my vines and peach trees", and half a dozen clouts for the wagon and carts.

He paid 1/6 to Young Goodey Haycock for her children gathering stones - on another occasion he gave 6d to Goodey Haycock and her husband, both being sick.

John Hills of Linton supplied seeds for the garden and sometimes delicacies such as a dish of asparagus for 2/-.

Wood has many uses on a farm and most of the supplies came from Richard and Henry Waller of Chrishall; they supplied 1100 spits for thatching as well as rods, sprindles, whips and a plough staff. 25 ashen poles were obtained from Langley for 5/-.

A number of medicine men came from other villages to tend the animals when they were sick and occasionally the Rector's family. Among them Athanasius Carrington and Marmaduke Fisk are memorable mainly for their Christian names; the latter came to the little black cow infected with the "dry garget" and later to the red cow and left oil to dress her "withall against the need arise".

Jos. Botterel supplied drinks for the horses and for treating them for worms; the gelder was paid 4/- for spaying the bitch. Fourteen shillings were paid "to Dr Harvey for coming over to my daughter being sick about harvest last, and for physic for her and some for her husband".

On another occasion a Mr Wright came out to Mrs Crackenthorpe. The Rector gave George 1/- "for healing of his hand being very much hurt with the waggon at Barley". Most of the barley went to Barley for malt. He bought Tincture of Steele and many boxes of Lockiers pills during 1707 and 1709. Apparently he was not at all well but he continued in office for ten more years.

Other medicines the Rector ordered were "Stuff for easing my dizziness and giddyness in the head of Mr John Moors apothecary at the Pestle and Mortar, Church Lane, London." "for a bottle of orange

flavoured water to take the former drops in." "For an ounce of Spains liquorice for my cough." "For medecine for my corns from Mr. Scrampton at the Angel over against the Mermaid Tavern in Cornhill London."

The Rector kept at least four cows described as the red Welsh cow, the brindled cow, the little black Welsh cow and the great black Welsh cow. Horses he bought and sold at a number of fairs far and near.

1705	June	For the Little Bonny colt bought at Midsummer Fair	£4.0.0
	July	For the Dake colt exchanged for the black nagg at Royston Fair.	
		that colt	£7.8.6
		and in money now and 1/- for the horsekeeper	£10.1.2
1706	May	Received for the Ball horse bought at about June 1704 for £9.13.6 at St Neots	£13.0.0
	May	For a colt at St Neots Fair	£9.17.6
1707	June	Spent by Nathan having two horses at Whitsun Fair and selling one that is Watt that cost at the same fair 1704.	1.0
		Received of one Clark the horse courser for the Watt horse	£8.4.6
			£11.4.0
	June	Paid for a colt of John Brownrig out of Thorney Fen which they call Watt again instead of him sold	£8.15.0
1707/8			
	Jan	for the old bay horse	£1.0.0
1708	May	Received for the Jolly horse, besides 2/6 to George, sold to a doctor of Divinity at Cambridge, they say in Lincoln	£14.11.6

Good Horses were a neccessity as the corn was sold to mills and maltings at some distance, such as Barley (5 miles), Royston (6), Baldock (14), Buntingford (13) and Cambridge (9), and journeys were made to Ickleton, Linton, Elmdon, Chrishall, Shepreth, Duxford, Bassingbourn, Foxton and Barrington.

The diaries contain plenty of material for articles on other aspects of life nearly three hundred years ago. The Cambridge Anti-quarian Record Society hope to publish a full account of the diaries before too long.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- (a) Tilth and Broake. Apparently the land was farmed under a three course rotation, the third year being fallow, although this is never mentioned; "broake" would be the first crop after a fallow and growing wheat, this would be followed by "tilth" which would grow spring corn, mainly barley.
- (b) Haume cart - presumably carting straw. It would appear to have been the practice to leave long stubble when cutting the corn and then harvest the haume, or straw, afterwards.
- (c) Daubing - plastering walls with clay mixed with straw, as 'wattle and daub'.
- (d) Stetches - apparently another word for strips in the open field.
- (e) According to Alfred Kingston's "A History of Royston" (1906) Becket Fair was held on the vigil and day of St. Thomas the Martyr; it was one of the fairs granted to the Prior and Convent in Royston by Royal Charter; by 1906 it had almost disappeared, though "here and there an old inhabitant will speak of it as Becket's Fair".

THE FOUNDATION of EDWARD STOREY

by Joan Fitch

Edward Storey, Gentleman, sometime Captain, Bookseller, Alderman and Justice of the Peace, died in Cambridge in 1692 and was buried in Great St. Mary's, where may be seen a memorial tablet to his wife, himself and his son. He left his real and personal estate to his son, Dr. Edward Story (the E must have crept in later) Fellow of Magdalene College. Should the Doctor die without issue, the estate was left to Trustees, to purchase "within some convenient time, a piece of ground in some clean and convenient place within the bounds of the town of Cambridge, and thereupon build ten almshouses in brick with tile coverings, everyone of them containing one low room, with a chimney and buttery, and one upper room with a chimney therein, for a lodging room; the same to be, from time to time, disposed of by the Trustees in manner following: viz:- four widows of Ministers of the Church of England, two widows and one maiden of the Parish of St. Giles, and three maidens of the Parish of Holy Trinity, Cambridge; every of which widows and maidens to be 40 years of age at least, and of sober life and conversation".

Cambridge, like any old town, is rich in almshouse foundations and a surprising number still function. There are, or have been, St. Anthony and St. Eligius, Wrays, Jackenettes, Perse, Waters, Mortlocks; some of these have been modernised, some pulled down and rebuilt on site, some rebuilt on another site. Storey's Almshouses have been through many vicissitudes, but none has been pulled down; the history is still there to see.

Fortunately for the widows and maidens, Dr. Edward Story did die without issue; but it was a long time before the clean and convenient place was found and building begun. The early history seems to be one of muddle at best and fraud at worst. Elizabeth, the widow of the first Edward Story, lived till 1727, outliving her son, and she and her nieces apparently appropriated too much of the revenue to their own use; so in 1712 the Charity Commissioners had to appoint three Trustees of their own and instruct them to start building as soon as the finances were put in order.

At his death the first Edward Story stood possessed of two inns in Holy Trinity Parish and another in Great St. Mary's; farm land at Trumpington and Newnham; a farm house and land in St. Giles Parish, till lately known as Storey's Farm and still the property of the Foundation; arable land in Madingley Road, where Storey's Way now is; and a tanyard and cottages, held of the Manor of Merton, in St. Giles Parish. It was on the last of these sites that the Trustees decided to build.

Anyone who looks critically at the Oyster Tavern in Northampton Street will see that it is made up of four cottages, two on the street frontage and two behind. These were the houses for four widows of Ministers of the Church of England, and consisted each of a sitting room, two bedrooms and a passage, with a kitchen in common and a good garden. Money grants went with the houses, £3 for clothes, £10 stipend, £12 grant, £6 various, £1 coal, each year. The Cottages were occupied by Clergy widows until after the first world war, but later became Robinson's grocery shop, the fourth cottage behind being for a time

the office of the Cambridge Preservation Society. The whole building is now a restaurant; it is still the property of the Foundation.

If one goes down the entry to the left of the Tavern, and turns left into Magdalene, one can see on the left the original almshouses for the widows and maidens of the two parishes. That their appearance is so different from that of the cottages in Northampton Street is perhaps because they were not purpose-built but were adapted from the tanyard stables, in 1729. The almswomen were given, like the Clergy Widows, a stipend of £10 a year, and also, at Christmas, a gown of sad-coloured cloth, and two pairs of shoes and a pair of stockings at Christmas and Midsummer. (The sturdy hand-knitted stockings of the period perhaps lasted as long as two pairs of shoes). This building was sold to Magdalene in 1923, but remained as the Tan Yard cottages, approached from Northampton Street, until the 1960s, when it became part of the College. Part 2 of the Survey of the City of Cambridge by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments gives architectural details on pages 315 and 316.

There is little history in the next hundred years except inevitable changes among the Trustees. The connection with the University may have begun with Edward Story Junior, and in 1734 we find the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. William Towers, as a Trustee. For a time the Trustees were entirely drawn from the Heads of Houses, and things seem to have been managed reasonably well during that time; but in 1837 no accounts were issued, and the Court of Chancery stepped in and ordered certain requirements. The Trustees were to live in the University or town or within a mile of the suburbs. They were not to remain below three in number. There were to be four meetings a year which they were to attend regularly, and they were to keep proper accounts. The number of almswomen was to be increased, and any surplus income spent on building more almshouses. This scheme was to be read annually to the Trustees; evidently they had been in some danger of forgetting their duties.

It seems there must have been a good deal of surplus income, for not long after this the first rebuilding scheme was begun. On part of the Storey's Farm Site in Shelly Row and Mount Pleasant, nine houses for Parish Almspeople and six for Clergy Widows were built in 1843/4, in the Tudor style, of two storeys with walls of yellow brick with freestone dressings and slated roofs (see p.316 Royal Commission). No doubt this was a more clean and convenient place than ever Tan Yard had been. The Shelly Row almshouses served the Parish Almspeople well until 1974, they were modernised in the 1950s, each house being made into two flats with kitchen/dining room, bed/sitting room and bathroom, the odd ninth house being kept as a two-storey house for two sisters or friends. The Clergy Widow houses in Mount Pleasant remained as almshouses until 1954, when it became apparent that they were no longer wanted as such. They were let at controlled rents, (one to the Aunt of Archbishop Ramsay) and the income applied to pensions for the Clergy Widows. Two have now been sold, two have become an Abbey-field house, and the others are still let.

After 1844 more than a hundred years passed without any further building, but the Minute Books are full of fascinating details. One of the Clergy Widows, Mrs Oldham, requested leave to receive "young ladies who may wish to attend the lectures here". The Trustees gave leave for the young ladies to stay three weeks, at the most 15 weeks,

they too have strictly "non-resident status". Later the whole district must have deteriorated, for we read of rats and choked drains. The Clerk of Works made official complaint of washing being hung out, of children playing on the Bank, of carriages being prevented from getting to the houses. Readers of "Period Piece" will remember the terrors caused to the Darwin children by the "dreadful boys" who used to rove about in gangs round Castle End.

New schemes were drawn up in 1891, and again in 1956. Three Trustees were, and still are, appointed by the Council of the Senate, and two co-opted, one for St. Giles and one for Holy Trinity. The income of the Charity is allocated as to three fifths to the Parish Almspeople, and pensioners, and as to two fifths to the Clergy Widows. In addition to almswomen, out-pensioners similarly qualified may be appointed, the amount of their pension having varied from time to time.

The present writer has been associated with Storey's since 1958, first as Clerk, succeeding Mr. D.V. Durell, who remained as Legal Adviser, and since 1968 as a University Trustee. In 1958 the Trustees were E.P. Weller, Bursar of Caius, (Chairman), Frank Salter, of Magdalene, and Edith Chrystal, of Newnham, for the University; with Mrs. Mellish Clark for St. Giles, and for Holy Trinity Mr. E.T. Halnan, happily still with us though he resigned his Trusteeship in 1979, to be succeeded by Bishop Cyril Tucker. The Almshouses were in process of being modernised, and were mostly empty, but they were soon filled as quickly as they were ready. When we think of the places the almswomen came from, and where the out-pensioners lived, we think mainly of places that have disappeared: cottages on the "De Vere" site, in Albion Row and Mount Pleasant; Shelly Terrace; and in King Street, Wrays Court and Trinity Place. Who remembers Trinity Place, where now the monument to the New Brutalism stands in King Street? The inhabitants were scattered to the four winds, but Storeys kept in touch with such as were its pensioners even though they moved outside the parishes.

The 1960's was the decade of rising land values; the Trustees woke up one day to find they were millionaires. They owned at that time parts of Eaden Lilley and Joshua Taylor, the Arts Cinema, and other properties round Market Passage - perhaps the original "two inns in Holy Trinity Parish". Rents had been rising rapidly, and in 1969 Carter Jonas, the Foundation's Agents, sold the City Centre properties for £880,000 and re-invested part of the proceeds in properties elsewhere. Various schemes for building more almshouses were mooted and abandoned. At one time a consortium for redeveloping the whole area between Castle Street, Mount Pleasant and Albion Row was proposed, but the other parties held back. Finally, in 1970, the Trustees decided to go it alone on their own land, and Mr. C.J. Bourne FRIBA, was appointed architect, with a brief to design a sheltered housing scheme consisting of 41 self contained flats, each with bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom (a few with two bedrooms for sisters or friends), a flat for a Warden, common rooms, laundry, guest rooms etc. at a cost of around £178,000. Mr. Bourne had already designed sheltered housing for the Cambridge Housing Society, and he entered with gusto into this rather more lavish scheme. A few frills, such as a sun terrace over the car park, had to be cut out, and in the event the lowest tender, which was accepted, was £330,335 from Johnson and Bailey. Building began in 1972, and Storey's House was ready for

occupation early in 1974. Because of the long association with the University, the Trustees decided to go right to the top and ask the Chancellor, Lord Adrian, to perform the opening ceremony, which he most kindly did on a fine day in June. At this time the Clerk to the Trustees was Mrs. Vera Carroll, who saw the building of Storey's House through from beginning to end. She was succeeded in 1975 by the present Clerk, Mrs. Suzanne Shield. The Chairman was, and still is, Dr. Peter Maitland, the other University Trustees being Dr. Stanley Aston, Bursar of St. Catherine's (since succeeded by Dr. Fleet, Bursar of Downing), and Mrs Fitch, and the co-opted Trustees Mrs. Jane Deas, a resident in St. Giles Parish, and Mr. Halnan.

The Shelly Row almshouses, meanwhile, had been sold to the highest bidder, The City Council, for £75,000, to help defray the cost of the Storey's House. Residents there were given priority for the new flats, and all agreed to move. Out-pensioners came next, followed by other qualified women. At one time the Trustees asked the Charity Commissioners to extend the terms of the Trust to include men, believing that many elderly ladies could best be helped by helping their elderly husbands too; but this was not allowed. Edward Story had wanted to help widows and maidens, and widows and maidens it had to be.

Meanwhile money had been accumulating in the Clergy Widows Branch also, and the Trustees considered whether housing was not more important for widows of clergymen even than pensions. A Vicar's wife who loses her husband loses her home as well; and having always lived in a tied house, she often has no hope of buying anything for herself. So the Trustees looked about them and consulted the Ely Diocese, who offered to sell them a portion of the Glebe in Melbourn. Mr. Bourne was again appointed architect, and he produced an attractive scheme for eight bungalows on a secluded rural site behind the church. Fuller and Blackwell, of Burwell, won the contract, and work was begun in August, 1977. In July 1979 the Bishop of Ely performed the opening ceremony, blessing each individual bungalow and its occupant, and planting a magnolia tree in the central gardens. His delightful informality and the balmy summer day made this a very happy occasion.

Residents in sheltered housing, though in some ways very well cared for and comfortable, are at a disadvantage when they can no longer manage for themselves even in their sheltered environment. Their priority is low when they need a Home giving full residential care. The Trustees had for some time been concerned about some of the Residents of Storey's House, who, though capable enough when they first came in, had been growing older and less able to cope, thus putting an intolerable burden on Mrs. Powell, the excellent Warden, and her assistants. So a scheme, in some ways more ambitious than any, has been put in hand, and the first bulldozers moved in to the Storey's House Lower car-park in April 1980. It is for an extra-care unit for twelve residents, with a flat for a Matron, dining room and kitchen, where residents will have meals provided and a certain amount of nursing care. The tender, from Coulsons, was £271,270; inflation has taken its toll since Storey's House was first proposed at "around £178,000".

Edward Story would be amazed if he could see how his original endowment of ten little cottages had grown; but he would surely be pleased to know that his concern for the elderly of his two parishes has survived for nearly 300 years.

For some of the facts in this brief history I am indebted to Miss H.M. Larke, who researched and wrote a much more detailed history in 1970. Brought up to date by the present Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs. Suzanne Shield, it is being printed and will be available to any members of the Local History Council who would like to know more.

MEMORIES OF CAMBRIDGE, 1900-1918

By G.O. Vinter

Round about 1920 my grandfather, J.O. Vinter, wrote his "Recollections of Cambridge", it's people & incidents as he remembered over the previous 70 years, that is to say, starting about 1850, he having been born in 1846. These The Bulletin kindly printed in 1969. (vol 24).

I am thinking that perhaps I should do the same thing, as I was born in 1900, in Station Road, Cambridge in one of the houses now demolished. After a year or so, we moved to The Beeches, Trumpington, which has also been pulled down and replaced by Gilmerton Court. I started going to St. Faith's School in 1905. I was a bit lanky and the doctor (Dr Ingle, Lensfield Road), ordered that I must not be on my legs more than necessary otherwise I should be knock-kneed so I suffered the indignity of being wheeled to school in a pram, getting out as soon as I came in sight of the school. Before this, no-one had apparently taught me anything because I remember I was taken into the Drawing Room, now the Headmasters study, and taught my alphabet with squares of cardboard, by Mrs Goodchild, the wife of the then owner of the school.

There were 40 boys, 6 of whom were boarders, in two classes taken by Mr Goodchild and his daughter, Faith. I think the fee for day boys was £6 per term. He sold the school to Mr Lower, son of the Rector of Fowlmere, to whom it still belonged when I left in 1914, and for some years after. He was keen on sports and I should imagine a good classicist, because I can never forget my astonishment when, at the age of 10, I was summoned to his study and told that we were to start Greek, and my astonishment to discover that there was an altogether different alphabet. I do remember after an examination on algebra where I got 3 out of 100, my report said 'Lacks intellectual passion'. I think he had a habit of going through boy's desks because the only occasion I remember being summoned to his study was when I took to school a book my mother had left amongst many others in my bedroom called (this is gospel truth!) "Advice to Young Mothers". I had no idea what it was about. He found it and gave me a good caning. I couldn't make out why.

Mr Lower's sports were well run. He had one assistant master, Mr. Arnold, and his sister coped with the small boys. He could throw a cricket ball to what seemed to me a vast height, and I once won it. I also established the record of long jump of 14ft 9in. which I believe survived for many years.

General elections were most exciting. All boys of University and Church background were, I think, Conservatives, and boys of business and (mostly therefore) chapel background were Liberal. The Chivers and the Birds were Baptist, the Vinters had been Wesleyan (my great-uncle was the first master at The Leys), but my parents had started going to Trumpington Church. Anyway, I can see the carriages going towards the

Town with the colours tied to the coachmens' whips.

The Trumpington Road was an un-metalled road, thick mud in winter white dust in summer. I remember seeing what I believe would be the first Royal Mail motor van, with solid rubber tyres, thundering by the Beeches, leaving a white cloud behind it. I used to ride to school on my bike. There was a raised footpath on the left but it was forbidden to ride on it so bikes had a fairly smooth track close to the edge of the path. There were no houses that side, and open fields, where now are Porson, Barrow and Bentley Roads. We had 'prep' on some days from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and I conceived the idea after dark of having a hook on a piece of string so that I could get behind a 'growler' (a 4 wheeled horse drawn carriage), hook on and get towed home. I did this once too often when I hooked on to a hansom cab. The driver let me get fairly hooked, then gave me a terrific crack with his whip, sending me crashing on the road. The only houses that I remember in Trumpington Road, on the right as you go into Cambridge, was a terrace of houses, a big house, now the Perse Junior School, belonging to Dr. Bumpstead, the open fields to Douglas House, where Miss Grace Blythe lived; in the centre of the front lawn, the owner had a memorial stone covering the grave of a dog. Next to him, a person called General Bullough, (in 1907 it was Mr. C.E. Grant), and then, of course, my grandfather's three houses, now St. Faith's School. There were no houses in Latham Road other than the farm at the end, and a little green-house at the corner where you could buy plants (George Willers, a nurseryman). Chaucer Road was there, I think, all built up; in one house lived Mr. Chaplin, the owner of the Robert Sayles business; he had, I think, only one daughter, Carrie, who was a well-known figure striding about Cambridge, walking very fast and always well turned out.

The approach to Brooklands Avenue from Stonebridge was by a little iron bridge with a lodge, the Avenue being the private approach to Brooklands House; you had to own a house in the avenue to be allowed to use the through route and my grandfather bought one for the purpose. One of the two Foster families (Foster's Bank), lived at Brooklands, the other at Anstey Hall, Trumpington. Up the road towards Trumpington, my grandfather had bought the land on the left from Trinity (the 99 years' lease expired recently) and built three big houses with long gardens, stables and paddocks. The houses, Firwood, Leyspring and Southfield, are all now St Faith's School. My grandfather lived first at Firwood, sold it to Professor "Arabic" Browne and finally lived and died at Southfield. I remember the youngest of his handsome daughters being much sought after by undergraduates at Sunday afternoon tea parties, particularly by Jack Hulbert.

Long Road, except for Mr Duke's farm, was entirely rural. My nannie would take my sister and me to see the polo on the field which is still not built on, on the left of the bridge. There was the bridge over the Great Northern Railway and beyond it at the bottom a level crossing over the Great Eastern. One day I stood there specially to see King Edward VII go by on a train to London and can still see clearly his profile. I think gas lamps extended all the way from Cambridge to Trumpington because I can remember the lamp lighter with his pole on his bicycle, putting it through the little hole in the lantern bottom, pushing up the lever to turn on the gas, and the light coming on. He would have to come again in the morning to turn them all out.

Later we moved to Great Shelford and I was at Clifton College and the ribbon development all along the Shelford road was by that time well under way. Late in the War I was called up for the Army and can recall how disappointed I was when Armistice was declared and my call-up papers were cancelled.

Holidays - a lot of Cambridge people went to Hunstanton, called 'Hunston' in those days. Going there for a fortnight must have been an undertaking. We had to take a flat tin bath and a hip bath, both of which had tin lids and held the bulk of our clothing requirements for the holiday, and were compulsory because 'digs' had no baths. Jumping on the 'rocks' with poles specially bought for children was one of the main amusements when the tide was coming in, also avoiding getting drenched on the Esplanade by the waves at high tide. There was a little theatre there where Pierrots performed. There may be some around who still remember Mr Wardroper, whose troupe it was. When fine, we would sometimes hire a horse and trap from Collaby's and go to Ringstead Downs to toboggan on the dry grass down the steep hills; you could hire the toboggan from a nearby cottage.

At Christmas we went to my mother's parents at Bristol, very Wesleyan, benches brought in before breakfast for the staff to sit on and kneel over during prayers. What has stuck in my mind was the journey from Kings Cross to Paddington in a specially hired box wagon with loose luggage inside as well as us, my rocking horse strapped to the top, and the little boys with their brushes and pans dodging in and out of the traffic, collecting the horse droppings.

Trumpington Church was a well organised and seemly establishment. The Pembertons had their own seating on the left with the servants sitting behind, but Miss Viola Pemberton sang in the choir,. She had a lovely voice and a beautiful wide-brimmed hat. We all, of course, had our own pews. My father had the last one on the left, slightly shorter than the rest. We were well provided for as far as Clergy were concerned because we had Dr Bury at the Vicarage and Canon Pemberton assisting. I can't remember which it was, but one always said 'Oh God' and the other 'Oh Gard'.

In Trumpington there was one shop, Miss Harvey's, now, as then, the Post Office. In 1905 I could get 2ozs. of sweets for 1d. I used to get my hair cut by Mr Bryant at the corner of Market Street/Sidney Street, first floor up, now Joshua Taylors. It cost 3d. and I was allowed to turn the big wheel which actuated the overhead revolving brushes which were in those days most unhygienically used to scour your head after cutting.

I remember an occasion, which must have been 1906 or thereabouts, when we were invited to have a front window view for some Royal procession, in Devonshire House, Regent Street, then belonging to Mr. George Matthew where later the dentists Bartlett & Rumsey moved from No.90. The street was totally empty and suddenly down the road from the fire station (which was opposite the theatre) came the fire engine and escape hauled by galloping white horses. Smoke was coming out of the chimney as they were building up steam pressure to work the hoses. We were told that there was a fire at Addenbrooke's but I don't, in fact, think that it was other than a false alarm.

We used to drive out to Coton in the pony trap which was known as

Tommy cart, to pick cowslips in a grass meadow which I noticed the other day, is still grass.

I shall never forget my first visit to the dentist, a person called Dr Cunningham, who lived in King's Parade. It was an absolute scandal, he fixed you in a chair, put a thing in your mouth which he then screwed up so that you couldn't move your jaws, and then having a large black beard, proceeded to bury your face in it, and altogether frightened the life out of you. It was a great and happy day when we moved to Mr Betts in Lensfield Road, who wore a swallow-tailed coat, white inserts and white spats, and you knew that when he had finished with you, he would open the bottom drawer of his cabinet and give you a lovely coloured paper serviette.

It is interesting to note that when I was married in 1925 we put central heating throughout our perishing cold Tudor House, a great big anthracite boiler with 13 radiators, for £125. We had a truck of coal at Harston station costing 32/6d. per ton, and we bought our first car, new, for £125. There was, at that time, only one other car in the village.

We used to go to dancing classes at Miss Barley's where there was a special ballroom at the corner of Emmanuel Road and Victoria Street. I remember she had an assistant who always wore black but looked like a fairy, a Miss Winlove-Smith. We were taught to dance so that when we eventually grew up we knew how to hold our partners and what to do. Some of the girls who used to dance with me, if there are any left, will remember it. The building may well still be there.

I remember when I was only about 4 or 5 years old, they decided that, as we called it in those days, I should have my tonsils out. A friend of my father's, who was a London surgeon, and was staying at the time, said 'Well, we'll soon do that', and sat me on a chair, proceeded to try and extract them with the necessary tools. The result, of course, was that I howled and screamed and he got very angry and said 'I can't do this boy.' a little later, they laid me on the table in the nursery, gave me an anaesthetic and took them out, and I proudly showed on the wall a large blob of blood where I had, presumably, coughed. By having the anaesthetic they discovered that my adenoids should also come out so the whole job was done in one go.

I remember too, I suppose it must have been at Easter Time, there used to be a man who walked out of Cambridge with a large tray on his head, covered with green baize; we called him the Muffin Man. Perhaps he came all the year round.

My father bought a car in 1906, a one-cylinder Rover, and I can distinctly remember sitting in this outside the fish shop in Petty Cury (wasn't it Pryor's?) where my mother did her necessary shopping.

My father told me that when he was a boy they cut down an enormous poplar tree in order to start building the Catholic church, which by the way, we always called the cathedral. It was built at a cost of £80,000 with money given by a certain lady whose husband had made a fortune in inventing the doll whose eyes closed when you laid it on its back, and because it was a Catholic church, and therefore automatically had images in it, it was called the idolatrous church, spelled 'eyedollatrous' church. I have since been told that it was made

of Bath Stone which since the arrival of the railways was readily available. Coming back to my father's first car, I well remember when driving out to Thriplow, that on rounding the corner at Newton, one of the front wheels came off and we followed it magnificently into the hedgerow on the right. Indeed, I also remember earlier than that, when driving through the countryside where Bentley Road now is, one of the tyres of the pony trap came off, and rolled down the road in front of us.

I've recently read about the temperature in the public baths in Cambridge. In my youth, the only place to bathe was the public swimming place on Coe Fen, the other side of the river; on this, the Coe Fen side, there was an enclosed place which I think belonged to the Perse School. There was a short, tremendously muscular and very brown man in charge, called Driver, and his method of teaching was simple, he put a belt round your waist, hooked a small chain on attached to a very large and thick bamboo pole, went to the end of the diving board and chucked you in, saying 'Now, swim!' and my goodness, you did swim! Dog stroke, of course. After a few immersions like that you were glad to go it on your own. I used to start when the water became 50° and used to knock off sometime in October when the water again reached that temperature. My bathing companion generally was Tom Bird.

Talking about Coe Fen "sports" - I remember going down with Oswald Chivers and creeping up behind a loving couple, happily seated, and letting off a thunder flash underneath them.

SOME HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CAMBRIDGE CITY CORONERSHIP

By D.V. Durell Sometime her Majesty's Coroner
for the City

In 1972, with the passing of the Local Government Act, the City of Cambridge lost one of its most ancient privileges and the City Coroner, holder of an office which had been occupied in (so far as can be ascertained) unbroken Succession for more than 700 years, laid aside his wig, bands and gown - last vestigial signs of ancient civic ceremonial - (even as the Aldermen, with whom in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the office of Coroner had been closely associated had already laid aside their scarlet) and reappeared from the shades of antiquity as a sober civil servant - one of Her Majesty's Coroners for the enlarged County of Cambridgeshire by whose Council he had been appointed to that office.

The Office of Coroner was first created by King Richard I in 1194 and in 1256 King Henry III granted a Charter to the Burgesses of Cambridge whereby they were given the right "to choose and create of themselves coroners to make the attachment of pleas of the Crown arising within the town until the coming of the King's Justices as elsewhere to the Kings Coroners did belong".

To understand the meaning and effect of this grant, it is necessary to know something of the nature of the office, and why the King had found it necessary to create it. The name "Coroner" is derived from the Latin "Custos Placitorum Coronae" - anglicised as "Coroner" or "Crownor" in Scotland (until the office north of the border merged with that of the Procurator Fiscal).

It is one of the most ancient English Institutions - only the

Monarchy and the Shrievalty can claim greater antiquity. It is a fascinating exercise to trace the changing character of the office, which runs like a thread through the intricate weave of our Social and economic history. In the twelfth century, and indeed right on into the eighteenth century, the Coroner was a kind of royal maid of all work. At the outset there was no centralised civil service and the King found that far too great a proportion of the royal revenues remained in the hands of the collectors - notably the powerful Sheriffs (a power which folk history has recorded in the Robin Hood legend - Sheriffs were a familiar menace far beyond the bounds of Sherwood Forest) When the office of Coroner was created, it was endowed with wide powers and a considerable criminal jurisdiction, which, to some extent, overlapped the powers of the Sheriff, with the difference that the Coroner was an officer of the Crown (as he still is), directly answerable to the Crown. He was in effect a Knightly tax collector for the Crown. The reason that his office was so closely associated with death was that, in numerous ways, death was a highly profitable business for the Crown, and it was the Coroner's duty to see that that profit was duly collected and reached the royal treasury. He was responsible for tracking down criminals, and ensuring that the appropriate pecuniary penalties were extracted from them - or their families. The estates were frequently forfeit to the Crown. *Felo de se* - that is to say the suicide of a person held to be of sound mind - was a grave criminal offence in the eyes of both church and state and could involve forfeiture of the suicide's estate. The Coroner was responsible for enforcing the law relating to outlawry, to abjuration of the realm, to raising the hue and cry for an escaping criminal, and to deal with him if he sought sanctuary; fines were levied on any community in which an unexplained dead body was found. The Coroner, it has been said, was half detective and half tax collector. He investigated treasure trove and claimed it for the Crown, in certain areas he dealt with wrecks; He investigated every case of sudden or unexplained death since it almost certainly meant a further accretion to the royal treasury.

Perhaps one of the most interesting sources of gain to the Crown was the *deodand* - which was, in fact a survival from Saxon days. The *deodand* was the actual animate or inanimate object which directly caused a sudden death - the ship from whose mast the sailor fell, the well into which the farm worker tumbled and (the last straw which finally produced hasty legislation to abolish the *deodand*) the early railway train, into the course of which an eminent, but unwary, Victorian statesman walked with fatal consequences. It was the duty of the Coroner's jury (originally the local community in which the death occurred) to assess the value of the *deodand*.

In the mid eighteenth century a coach crossing Newmarket Heath was held up by a highway man. The guard, armed for once with a pistol instead of the more customary blunderbuss, fired first. At the inquest on the highwayman the value of the pistol was assessed at two shillings.

At Ely an unfortunate young woman hanged herself after giving birth to an illegitimate child - the rope was valued at a few pence. Near Wisbech a farmer died after being kicked in the stomach by his bay mare. His family lost not only the breadwinner but the value of his horse.

Suicides, their estates having been forfeited, were, for centuries

buried either at cross roads or in the roadside verge. This was done upon the instructions of the Coroner, by the Parish Council. In a comparatively recent case a body found buried on the outskirts of Cambridge was assumed to have been so interred, and thus provided valuable evidence in a public right of way dispute.

As at Cambridge the Crown often farmed out the power to appoint Coroners to Local Authorities and even to wealthy land owning Corporations. The Coroners appointed by such corporations were known as franchise Coroners. Thus, in the year 1494, King Henry VII granted to the Provost and Fellows of the Royal College of Kings in the University of Cambridge, by Charter, the right to appoint a coroner and (inter alia) "to have the goods and chattels of all their men and tenants, felons, fugitives and outlaws - to claim treasure trove, to receive fines for escapes of felons, convicts, felons de se and of outlaws and all kinds of confiscated chattels of men, tenants and residents within their lordships and lands - so that no other sheriff or coroner could dispute their rights. Presumably therefore if a Fellow of Kings - or a College servant - found life too much for him and hanged himself within the College precincts both his goods and the value of the fatal rope would be forfeit to the college and not to the crown - unless of course he were found to be of unsound mind - a decision which would rest with the College!

Until the Municipal Corporations Act of 1836 it would appear that the City always elected (or appointed) two coroners. In 1568 the City's Common Council enacted that the Mayor and Aldermen should always choose the two youngest Aldermen as Coroners. In 1836 the Town Clerk, Charles Henry Cooper (author of Cooper's Annals of Cambridge) was appointed Sole Coroner, and from that date until the Local Government Act of 1972 a single coroner exercised jurisdiction, no longer requiring to be elected annually, but appointed to serve, in the words of the relevant enactment "during good behaviour". There is no evidence of any coroner's tenure of office having been curtailed for a breach of that condition.

While there are innumerable reports to be found in the local press over the last few centuries, from the Cambridge Chronicle to the Cambridge Evening News, and there have been occasional appearances in Hansard, the Cambridge Coronership does not appear to have produced many causes celebres - nothing of the calibre of the Bravo case (which resulted in a change in the law and has given rise to countless books and radio and television series).

The aspect of a Coroner's jurisdiction which many find most interesting is the enquiry into treasure trove. If gold and silver coins or any articles of either of those metals are discovered, which a Coroner's jury find to have been hidden, and not simply abandoned, the Crown can claim them, though, provided that they have been promptly handed to the Coroner, the finder will usually receive the value of them. There have of course been notable finds in the County or adjoining counties - as for example the Mildenhall treasure, the Sutton Hoo ship burial and most recently the wonderful early silver church plate found near Huntingdon. The Victoria History of Cambridge County contains an interesting chapter on hoards of coins found in the County. There have been very few recorded finds in the City however, not perhaps surprising when one considers how great a part of the area within the City bounds has for so long belonged to ancient colleges, sometimes erected upon the site of, and succeeding to the estates of, earlier

monastic foundations.

In 1825 when extensions were being made to the Eagle Public House in Benet Street two pots of gold coins dating from the reign of James I and Charles I (probably concealed at the time of the Civil War) were unearthed. The case was removed by writ of certiorari from the Coroner's Court to the High Court - the ultimate judgment appears uncertain but the coins were handed to Corpus Christi College who presumably owned the site. The last case of treasure trove to be heard by a City's Coroner's jury was that of gold coins found by workmen in a Trumpington Street sewer - but these were thought to be the proceeds of a burglary, abandoned by the thief.

The inquest on treasure trove is an interesting example of an apparently archaic survival serving an invaluable purpose in modern society. It is a criminal offence not to report a discovery of anything that might constitute treasure trove to the Coroner - a fact that is highly relevant in a countryside devastated by bulldozers and unofficial metal detectors.

There is little record of a conflict between the City Coroner and the University - however even the Coroner on occasion had to give way to the weight of the academic hierarchy. In 1788 two members of the University surrendered to take their trial for the murder of a drayman in a town and gown row. However, as Cooper records, the indictment was "ignored" and the Coroner's inquisition was quashed "for informality".

A long chapter in the history of the City of Cambridge has now closed. No more will the City Coroner, wigged and gowned, in company with the Town Clerk similarly caparisoned, and also on occasion the Recorder in his full bottomed sheepskin wig, process, preceded by the Mayor in full Mayoral regalia, his Sergeant at Mace and Mace bearers, from the Guildhall to Great St. Mary's Church or to hear the Assize Sermon preached before the Judge.

Today the County Council appoint five county coroners one of whom is primarily responsible for the area which comprises the City of Cambridge.

The Coroner's role has changed considerably since he spurred his horse to the scene of a crime, accompanied by two men at arms. (He can hardly have been a popular visitor and the protection of a body guard may often have been required). Within the past year all his criminal jurisdiction has finally passed to other courts, but today he exercises an even more important function. He is an independent officer responsible only to the Crown as the guardian of justice and the interests of the individual - but increasingly his work has been deflected from the detection of homicide to the investigation and prevention of all forms of unnatural death, to the education of the public, and the guidance, in certain spheres at least, of the medical profession, since, existing as he does in the corridors of both law and medicine, he can achieve a detachment which may be difficult of attainment for doctors (or lawyers) practising their special skills in what may be a somewhat restricted field. The relentless tax-collector of the twelfth century has become, if not a recording angel at least something of a public relations officer or ombudsman!

THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW LOCAL HISTORY (The Blake Report)

This Committee of seven was set up on 1977 under the chairmanship of Lord Blake, Provost of the Queen's College, Oxford, and Deputy Chairman Dr E. Miller of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Its purpose was "To make an assessment of the pattern of interest, activity and of study in local History in England and Wales, and to make recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services". Its definition of local history was "the study of man's past in relation to his locality; locality being determined by an individual's interests and experience".

The Committee took evidence, both written and oral, from a large number of people and places, including teachers of local history and representatives of national bodies, the greatest number of the 700 submissions - nearly one-third - coming from voluntary societies. Information was also received from other countries. It issued its Report in the autumn of 1979. This Report is available from 26 Bedford Sq., London WC1 3HU, price £1.75. Meanwhile, here are a few of the points raised by the Committee.

"We are convinced as a result of our enquiries that growth in the study of local history in England and Wales has been remarkable, especially since the end of the Second World War. It has clearly become a means of personal satisfaction for many people. The amateur/recreational tradition is a distinction characteristic of local history here; comparison with continental countries suggests that it would not, but for that tradition, be so clearly delineated as a distinct form of historical study. An analysis of the dates of formation of the 240 local history societies from which we received written evidence showed that 195 were established between 1946 and 1976, only 27 being formed prior to that date. (No dates were given in 18 of the pieces of evidence from local societies). The average membership figures for the societies is 151...there are known to be many people involved in local history who are not in membership of any society".

"We have some sympathy with the view that the creation of a 'great sea of undifferentiated porridge where all the crucial characteristics and guiding features have been obliterated' has left many people uncertain and unsure. An understanding of the history of a locality gives people a sense of roots, identity and individuality".

"We believe that local history performs both a social and a recreational role. We submit that it has an environmental role too; and offer by way of illustration the claim made to us that local history lessons among school children in a London borough so stimulated a feeling of pride in the district that they led indirectly to a reduction in vandalism in the area. Local history has yet another role about which there can be no dispute. It is an educational one. It offers people a process of discovery; it gives them an opportunity to work towards the discipline required to collect and analyse information and material so as to offer an interpretation of its meaning".

"No university in England or Wales offers a first degree in local history...The University of Leicester has the only local history department in the country, and that is primarily concerned with post-graduate rather than undergraduate students." "We contend that emphasis

should be placed on the opportunities which local history affords for the development of skills in handling and evaluating source material and in using both old and new research techniques. The subject is one in which it is possible for the individual to make a genuine contribution to scholarship".

"The amount of local history activity in schools, though growing, has far to go before it matches that among adults. This may be due, at least in part, to the fact that certainly in the primary and middle schools the greater proportion of teachers engaged in local history work have neither academic qualifications in history, nor initial training in local history skills".

"Training is a key element in any plan designed to meet the needs as we see them of those who teach in school, in higher education or in adult classes...We urge that, whatever the ultimate aim in view, all courses in local history should include training in a knowledge and understanding of sources, a systematic method of investigation, the use of documentary material, in the original, if possible, or otherwise in reproduced form, together with group, as well as individual field or practical work of a research nature".

"We recommend the creation of a range of qualifications in local history...that efforts should be made to gain acceptance within universities and polytechnics of the subject as one suitable for those working towards first degrees".

"All training should take cognisance of the possibilities of computer-assisted learning".

"A recurring plea made to us was that record offices - we include the centrally administered Public Record Office - extend their opening hours to include Saturdays and some evenings each week. Many local historians in daily employment are hostages to circumstances which make it impossible for them to have convenient access to such sources". "Library local collections will generally assist many more local historians of all ages and abilities than the local record offices (in Cambridge the ratio of library to record office users is about 4 : 1)...Service to the local history public could be improved if copies were made of certain classes of much used documents in record offices and placed for examination in public libraries".

"Finance for publication of material written as a result of enquiry was mentioned 68 times in the 240 submissions we received from local history societies...A grants system would be welcomed".

Those who were able to talk to the committee agreed on the need for a national organisation concerned solely with the subject and its practitioners. If the S.C.L.H. were prepared to "extend the scope of its activities so as to play a more dynamic part" it might serve as a foundation on which to build such an organisation. Again, finance would be needed.

Members who subscribe to, or see occasionally the Local Historian will find interesting comments on the Report on pp. 18-23 of the issue of February, 1980.

MEMORIES OF RAMPTON FEAST

By R.J. Young

The mention of Rampton Feast always brings back memories of former days to the people of Rampton who are natives of the village. These few reminiscences will no doubt revive the memories of those of my generation who were the eight to eleven year olds just previous to the outbreak of World War I. (In those days television, or even sound radio, were non-existent. There were no buses to Rampton and the sight of a motor car was a rarity.) To us children a visit to Cambridge once or may be twice a year by the carrier's cart was a great event. No wonder that we looked forward to the Feast, as did also many grown ups.

Feast Sunday is the first Sunday after Trinity Sunday, and it was looked forward to as a means of family gatherings as the majority of Rampton people were linked by marriage with the folks of Cottenham and Willingham and it was a common thing for families to walk from these villages to Rampton during the afternoon for family re-unions, with tea and a visit to the Green in the evening for the visit of the Cottenham Salvation Army band. Afterwards many of the men would gather at the public houses for the renewal of acquaintance with old friends. There were two public houses in Rampton at this time, the present "Black Horse" and the "Chequers Inn", which was closed in 1917 and became a private dwelling, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bartingale, 29, High Street.

To us children it must be confessed the main thought on the Sunday was will there be any amusements come along. And what excitement when during the evening, a horse-drawn caravan, followed by another four wheel wagon, also horse-drawn and loaded with all the paraphernalia of the fair would pull up on the side of the road outside where the Village Hall now stands and wait until the Army had finished their service and left the green, when they would draw on to the Green.

When Rampton got the full outfit of the fair, road engine drawing three or four wagons, we were thrilled. This was Mannings Amusements and was, I think, about 1912 or 1913 although I am not sure of the dates. One thing which was of great interest to us children was a coal black negro working with the fair, and I don't think any of us had ever seen a coloured person before in our life. For some years afterwards we referred to this feast as the one to which the black man came. Also this was the year when the engine driver hit the tree on the Green, almost pushing it over, as it was then only about 10 or 12 years old. It is the tree opposite "Home Nest" the home of Mr. R. Parker and can still be seen to be leaning. I personally witnessed this happening.

On our way to school on Monday morning we would hang about as long as we dare before School, also during our dinner time from 12 to 2 watching the erection of various stalls. Coming home at 4 o'clock we would find things almost ready for the evening. Tuesday was a holiday from School and was the principal day of the Feast, when visitors would come from outlying villages for the evening.

Another memory I have of this time concerns a man of the name of George Ivatt, an elderly man who lived alone in a part of a thatched house, long since gone, that stood on the site of "St. Michaels", now the home of Mr. Geoff Barnes. George or "Oady" as he was known to all

and sundry, both old and young, was the owner of a donkey and cart which he brought up to the Green on Tuesday afternoon and would take schoolchildren from the Green to the Bridge on Cottenham Road and back, two or three at a time. The fare was either $\frac{1}{2}$ penny or 1 penny, I forget which although I have had the ride.

A regular visitor to Rampton Feast at this period was Jack Nightingale with his rock stall, toy stall, coconut shy, swinging boats and a small shooting range, where the targets were clay pipes such as many men smoked, these were knocked off with an air gun.

One thing which has disappeared from the fairs is the water squib. The only thing needed for this was a table and a supply of tubes almost identical to those used for adhesives and tooth paste and was often in charge of a female member of the fair. The tubes were filled with water and were a source of great amusement to the younger generation but not so popular with the older members of the community who did not relish a jet of water in the ear or back of the neck, mostly being taken unawares. The person in charge would spend their time opening used tubes and refilling with water. They were opened and pressed out to shape with the aid of an old fashioned wooden clothes peg which was called a dolly peg. These water squibs were prohibited by a bye-law passed sometime between the two wars.

Of course we never had very much money, halfpennies and pennies were to us almost the equivalent of the 5p and 10p. pieces the youngsters spend to-day, but things were cheap and we managed to get a lot of enjoyment with a few pence. I remember once going through the three days of the Feast with the princely sum of ninepence. This taught us how to lay our money out. We were allowed one shot for a ha-penny with the airgun on Jack Nightingale's stall. Black Liquorice cost ha-penny a strip. They were strips about 15 inches long, about threequarters of an inch wide, looking like black tape.

The "Chequers Inn" was a very popular place during Feast week, there being a skittle alley at the back and dancing in the long room. This was a room made by the removal of a partition wall making two rooms into one. It was a great attraction to us children to collect outside during the evening and sit on the low front window sills and watch the dancing, the music being supplied by an old fashioned gramophone with a large horn, or sometimes by a concertina player who was, I think, named Huntley and came from Cambridge.

The saddest part of the week for us was Thursday morning. On our way to School we saw the wagons all packed up ready to go and on returning at dinner time, the Green would be empty. Our Feast had gone, only to be a memory until its return next year.

(Reproduced by kind permission from "Rampton Roundabout")

COTTAGES NOS 3 to 13 SILVER STREET, Ely
(Now 5 to 11)

By H.M. Larke
(with many thanks to Reg Holmes and to Mac Dowdy)

The story of these cottages begins in 1310 when John Keton built a farmhouse which came to be known as Keton Manor on land to the south of what is now Silver Street in Ely. John Keton was Almoner to the Priory of Ely. In the fourteenth century Denny Abbey near Waterbeach was one of the possessions of the Priory of Ely, and a rent charge upon it was payable to the Prior by the nuns of the Denny House. In 1363, by a payment to the Priory the nuns of Denny secured release from the rent charge, and the money thus secured by the Ely brethren was devoted to the purchase of Ketons Manor. This was bestowed on the cellarer to enable him to defray expenses incurred in the entertainment of the humbler folk who visited the Shrine of St Etheldreda in the monastic church in Ely.

The lot of the serfs of the previous century had improved. Each man probably now had a shack of his own on the demesne, where he kept a pig and a cow, and there were game and birds for the taking. Everyone poached on the Lord's Land including the clerics. But war and plague took heavy toll of the menfolk and women had to support themselves and their children, often doing also the mens share of the work. There were of course no factories or workshops or shops. Each household had to be sufficient unto itself.

The fourteenth century was a period of change; the feudal system was producing great freeholds to the detriment of the poor man, so it was probable that when the original house was showing signs of deterioration the ambitious owner built himself a great new modern house nearby. So we find in 1400 a great timber-framed house in Swalugh or Swallow Lane. It had a fine open hall, with two aisles and accommodation for the women and children above at either end, probably reached by ladders. Two original carved posts can still be seen in the upper room of No. 9. It was evidently a "house of quality" and was probably The Manor House, the original farmhouse remaining on the land still serving the Lord and his family.

The great gate of the Priory, Ely Ports, lay on the east across a fine square. Swalugh Lane, probably of very ancient origin, was the trackway, lane, thoroughfare linking the town with the monastery.

Improved methods of living were now general such as ploughing, thatching, keeping of poultry, shearing of sheep and treating their fleeces. Women worked in the fields and shared in these new occupations, and there was a general rise in the standard of living (accompanied by certain disadvantages).

Land belonging to the manor was also situated to the north of Ely towards Little Downham road, on the site of the modern Orwell Pit Farm. This had been enclosed by Prior Walpole for the pasturing of sheep, with the consequence that the operatives who had been engaged in arable farming were no longer required. In the year 1540 a commission was set up to enquire into the effects of enclosure and it was reported that "the Manor of Ketens holden by indenture of the College of Ely is decayed and the mansion house is made a barn. And

in one John Andrews tyme there was an honest house and kept a plowe."

The Dissolution of the Monasteries seemed to mean little more to the inhabitants of Ely than a change of Masters, but the Gentry were all set to rise in the social scale and needed the help of the lower orders. The enclosures took from the poor folk their natural means of livelihood, the men had to become hired labourers, the women also only too often. The "Great Rebuilding" as it is sometimes called, or "The Sixteenth Century Reconstruction" is seen in our story. The Elizabethan age was about to burst into flower.

The black death had depopulated the land and vast empty areas abounded everywhere so the onset of unemployment was partially hidden. The upper classes had naturally suffered less.

In the sixteenth century the upsurge of manners and wealth (for the aristocracy!) continued and no doubt gave rise to the partial rebuilding of our great Manor House. The north side, i.e. the front was enlarged by means of "jettying", i.e. building overhanging walls on the front of the upper floor; at the same time another bay was built on the west, and a chimney was built in the centre of the hall. Coal was replacing wood for burning and necessitated chimneys. The day of the great oak beams was passing, for oak and all wood were getting scarce, clunch the native chalky stone came into use for buildings, also a local red brick, and clay bats, anything would serve if durable. No doubt much old material lying about the monastic ruins was found useful.

In the seventeenth century came a remarkable addition. A great "stone" house was built adjoining the original on the east, the "stone" being an aggregate of bits and pieces probably collected on and around the whole site, containing doubtless much monastic material. (Mrs Hughes, in 1976, picked up a fine carved head, which she gave to the Cathedral in memory of Mr Hughes and his work on the Lady Chapel). Timber had become less plentiful; standards and fashions were changing and perhaps accommodation was needed for an extended family. At first the upper rooms would have been unceiled, but an original window can be seen on the east end upstairs, and there was at least one chimney on the west wall which abutted on the old house, which by this time appears to have had a second and end chimney put in.

In June 1693 we find from the deeds that Richard Thickpenny, yeoman, of Ely, and John Wilkin sold to Roger Jenyns Esqr. the Mansion House and its derivatives for £246. Roger Jenyns, later knighted, was one of the Conservators of the Bedford Level. He acquired much property in Ely and lived in the fine medieval house, the Chantry, on the Green. He sold Ketens to John Gotobed of London, who bequeathed the property to his son Thomas, Deputy Steward of the Dean and Chapter Manors. (Gotobed is an old fen name).

Ketens Manor was next acquired by John Brackenbury, an Ely Tradesman, who owned a considerable amount of property in Ely. This seems to have been a period of change and instability, and of course the buildings were deteriorating, but it comes as a shock to read that in 1811 (how are the mighty fallen!) our fine Manor House is described as eight cottages in Walpole Lane (renamed), mortgaged by John Brackenbury, (Bankrupt) to meet his creditors. He is said to have "rebuilt or erected" several of the cottages, (this is difficult to

understand) and in 1812 he sold the whole property to Thomas Spooner for £1,665.

Everyone knows how hard were these times for the landless poor, for the "upper classes" had gone on going up and up and the "lower classes" were going down and down. The population had increased, and one hates to picture the cottages in Walpole Lane with their miserable inhabitants, and one cannot be surprised at what followed.

In 1816 took place the Littleport and Ely Riots and no part of our area can have escaped the onslaught. This was a pathetic savage protest against conditions which were worsening in the years following the wars, and many people were injured. The Military were called out, and men were executed at Ely, others elsewhere, many were transported. A Thomas Archer (note the name later) was instrumental in fetching the Military, he apparently owned land adjoining our property.

It is hardly to be wondered that a new horror struck under these conditions. 1812 Cholera visited Ely. Of Asiatic (Indian) origin it was particularly virulent. It swept through the area with which we are concerned - and no wonder. There was no drainage, only an occasional pump for fresh water. The residents in Silver Street (again renamed) were constrained to draw their drinking water from the river a mile and a half distant. This they carried up the hill in pails, and a pail-full supplied all their domestic needs for two days. They are said to have preferred the taste of tea made with river water! A Gotobed boy died within six hours, and the pest raged through the streets of our area for six months. The habits of the people were against precautions and preventive measures. The doctors were largely helpless, and advisory measures were received with hostility. (Twenty years later basic conditions appear to have changed little).

Thomas Spooner, who had bought the eight cottages in 1812, bequeathed them after his death to Adeline Archer because he felt "assured by the kindness of her disposition that she will not oppress the tenants thereof". A word of compassion in a grim world, and one wonders how the girl Adeline Archer took it. Did she forego the rents wholesale? How long did she live and did her descendants carry on the tradition? for it seems they held for nearly a century. At her death the cottages were to pass to Harold and Thomas Britten Archer, Children of his friend Goodwyn Archer, "their heirs and assigns".

By the middle of the 19th century certain people in England had awoken to the iniquities being suffered by the poor, legislation for betterment had begun to take effect, though it does not seem to have reached our cottages. In general, estate cottages were being built, allotments provided, landowners aspired to be called "good landlords".

In 1925 and Archer sold the cottages to George Cook, a Ramsey farmer, but somehow the number was reduced to six. It is clear that these cottages had become a mere slum. One old tenant recounts how she took No. 9, then empty. The grand medieval hall room had been divided into a scullery, kitchen and living room by a flimsy black partition coated with grease from smoke and steam. Our tenants children cried out to their mother, a youngish war widow, from Wales, "But we can't live here! We've never seen anything like this!" But she persevered, and today that room is the splendid heart of the whole, as originally it was, 600 and more years ago - albeit without

mod cons! - At sometime perhaps the beginning of this century, a range of exterior wash-houses and WC's was put in. Most of these still exist and are still used by the two old tenants. A Gotobed was still a tenant in 1938. Another old well known name shown is borne by one of the existing tenants - Garner.

In 1937 Cook's executors sold the six cottages for £280 to a Midland businessman as a 21st birthday present for his daughter! she later married a Ludlow and lived in Tydd St. Mary. Mrs Ludlow writes that she knows nothing whatever about the cottages and tenants; an agent did all the business, the rents were sent by post. Her father and she had looked upon the whole thing merely as an investment! and as such to be bought and sold. So one need not be surprised to find that in 1957 (twenty years after the Housing Act which was supposed to end the slums for ever) the Ely Urban District Council, after due notice, issued a closing order, as the six houses were deemed unfit for human habitation and no effort had been made to improve them. So they were threatened with demolition. They had been "Listed" as of architectural and historical interest Class 2 so the Agents luckily knew them to be of some value in this respect, and knowing Mr Hughes' connection with the Cambridgeshire Cottage Improvement Society Ltd and such like, informed him of the position, saying the owner would be willing to sell! After due consideration and inspection Mr Hughes approached the Public Health Authority and undertook to do what was necessary as far as was then possible, on the understanding that it would not be possible to fulfill all the requirements at once, especially as the cottages were tenanted. So he paid £300 for the six cottages, and set about providing water supply and drainage as required for four cottages and made other improvements where possible, joining two together. Two old tenants one seventy years old and another whose family had been there for generations, were desirous of remaining untroubled and were fearful of increased rents, so were left alone. Several other tenants left and after a few years an old war cripple died, releasing accommodation required for improvement. Mr Hughes left the cottages to the Cambridgeshire Cottage Improvement Society Ltd at his death.

A magnificent kingpost exists in the roof over 7 and 9 as shown by Mr Hughes drawings, but this cannot be reached now as the upper flight of stairs has crumbled and is unsafe. Mr Hughes had a skylight in the rear roof put in for viewing purposes. Children 60 years ago used to play up there.

Part of the old range of water closets and wash houses at one end of the back gardens remains and is being used by the two old tenants. At the rear was the Co-op coalyard, but this has now gone.

EXCURSIONS 1979

Saturday May 19th. Letchworth (Leader Mr A. Kirby, who prepared the excursion but was unavoidably absent. His place was taken by Mr. G. Wood).

On the way to Letchworth we passed through two planned towns: Royston, developed by Augustinian canons, and Baldock, founded by the Knights Templar, both in the 12th century. Both towns are part of the

great wave of town 'plantation' of early medieval England, and both were developed as speculative commercial ventures at strategic points on the road network.

LETCHWORTH is famous as the first Garden City, and has had a tremendous influence on 20th century town-planning. It was the brain child of Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928), and although it owes something to earlier industrial model communities such as Saltaire, Port Sunlight and Bournville, it was much grander in conception as an attempt to build up a complete self-contained community from scratch. Howard advocated that future urban development should be in the form of Garden Cities, each with a population of 32,000 containing all necessary social and employment facilities, surrounded by agricultural land, with tree-lined streets, open spaces, and buildings owing more to rural vernacular traditions than to the industrial town. The development of Letchworth started in 1904: the architects were Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin, who drew up the master plan and designed many of the early buildings. Their former offices have since 1977 been converted into the First Garden City Museum. Mrs Cadwallader of the Herts Local History Society gave us a brief explanation of the building which was originally built for the architects office but in 1937 became Barry Parker's home. We then looked at the plans, old photographs, advertisements of building land, maps and so on which are very well arranged. After this we spent an hour in the centre of the town, looking at shops, the new shopping precinct, the outside of the Town Hall and so on.

After tea - taken in various cafes in the central area - we drove round the town, seeing Old Letchworth where we had hoped to visit the 12th century church but found it locked. We saw the outside of St. Christopher School, originally co-educational and vegetarian, and then nearby The Cloisters. This very strange early 20th century building was the Theosophical Meditation College but is now used by Free Masons. We also saw the fine Spirella Corset Co. factory, one front of which is seen from the railway. There are a number of churches and chapels, and we went into St. George's C. of E. Church, a very modern building, started in 1963, with a narrow concrete spire, and an ingeniously contrived lady chapel, and also a curious shallow font built round a pillar. In our tour we saw a number of different types of house, including cottages meant for rural workers and somewhat larger ones meant for industrial workers. Altogether a very interesting day out.

Saturday June 16th. Long Melford Church and Kentwell Hall.
(Leader, Mr H.J.B. Webb).

KENTWELL HALL is a red brick Tudor mansion completely surrounded by a broad moat, and approached by a long avenue of limes planted in 1678. It is a typical example of an Elizabethan E-plan manor house; it was probably begun in the reign of Henry VIII by William Clopton, who died in 1562. It was completed by 1600 and its exterior has hardly altered since then. The interior has seen greater changes; the West wing still retains many of its Elizabethan features, but the centre and East Wings were substantially remodelled by Thomas Hopper after a fire in 1826. The Cloptons, several of whom are commemorated in the Church, retained the estate until 1641, after which it passed through several hands until in 1970 when the house and grounds were severed from the estate and were brought by Mr and Mrs Patrick Phillips who have, often with their own hands, gradually brought it from a poor state of repair to its present restored and enhanced condition. The gardens too have been recreated and are very attractive.

The CHURCH is one of the finest in Suffolk, it is also unusual in having a separate Lady Chapel, now very well decorated and arranged, but at one time a school room and even a coal store. The church itself was rebuilt in the late 15th century and there is little left of the earlier building. It is very large and light and its characteristic feature, according to Pevsner, is "the two-transomed three-light windows for each bay, repeated by the tall transomed clerestorey windows". Of special note is the Clopton Chantry and the many memorials, the kneeling donors depicted in the windows in the aisles, the alabaster relief of the Adoration of the Magi, and the Purbeck marble font.

After tea at the Black Bull there was some delay with the bus and this prevented us taking the way through Bury St. Edmunds and stopping at the Abbey Gardens as had been planned.

Saturday July 21st. Ickworth and West Wrattling Park (Leader: Mr. Geoffrey Wood)

ICKWORTH, formerly the home of the Hervey family (later Lords, Earls and Marquesses of Bristol) has since 1956 been owned and administered by the National Trust. This splendid house consists of a massive rotunda (1795) and two curving wings which were finally completed in 1829. The Hervey family owned the estate since the 15th Century, but it was not until Frederick Augustus, Bishop of Derry, became the 4th Earl of Bristol (in 1779) that plans were made for a building to house the wonderful collection which the Earl-Bishop made on his extensive tour of Europe. He never saw the house but after he died in 1803, his son completed the building. All the state rooms are in the compact area of the Rotunda and the East and West Corridors, while the family lived, and still live, in the East Wing. The State Rooms contain an almost unrivalled collection of English portraits, many other pictures by famous artists, a superb collection of silver, very beautiful and elegant furniture, and other treasures. There are fine views over the semi-formal Italian style garden.

WEST WRATTING PARK is the property of Lady Ursula d'Abo who welcomed us and gave us tea before escorting us round the house. The house is a large red brick building with a central block which has fronts of five bays built by Sir John Jacob Bt. in the early 18th century; it has never been altered since that time and therefore is an excellent example of what a house of the period really looked like. The fine proportions, decorated ceilings and other features are extremely attractive, and the present family has taken the greatest care to furnish in an appropriate manner. We were fortunate in being shown not only the living rooms but also the bedrooms on the first floor.

The gardens are very beautiful and next to them is a large market garden with tomato houses etc.

Thursday September 20th Wimpole Hall (Leader Mr G.O. Vinter)

Wimpole Hall has since July 1979, been opened to the public by the National Trust which now owns it. An excellent booklet is issued by the National Trust.

The earliest house, by Thomas Chicheley c. 1640, who was a keen Royalist but having forfeited his estate, compounded by payment of a fine. In 1686 it was sold to Sir John Cutler, whose daughter and heiress married Charles Robartes, who sold it to the Duke of Newcastle; on his death in 1711, his daughter inherited it and married Lord Harley. In 1754 Lord Harley sold to Philip Yorke, Lord Chancellor. In

the late 19th century it came into the hands of Viscount Clifden (the Hon. Agar-Robartes) who died in 1930. It was then bought by Mr and Mrs Bambridge (the daughter of Rudyard Kipling). She left the Hall to the National Trust.

WINTER LECTURES 1979/80

1979

- 6th October Mr P. Date on "Post-War University and College Buildings in Cambridge" (illustrated)
- 3 November Mr M.J. Murphy "Poverty in Cambridgeshire" (illustrated)
- 1 December Mr K. Oates, "From Orchard to Home" a film of Chivers Ltd, Histon, made in 1931.

1980

- 5 January Mr D. Steven "The Work of the Barrington Local History Society" (illustrated)
- 2 February Mr C. Jakes "Prickwillow in the Fens" (illustrated)
- 1 March Film Show by the East Anglian Film Archive Unit (University of Essex)
- 5 April Slide Party. "Around the World in 40 days", shown by Mr P. Date.

A.G.M. 1980

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, May 10th at Bottisham Village College, and in the absence of the President, Mr. G.O. Vinter, the Acting Chairman, Mr Dudley Durell took the chair. In his opening address he spoke of the sudden and distressing death of Mr Geoffrey Wood, who had been Secretary, Editor and Chairman of the Council at various times and had been for so many years a great support to the Council. His death left us feeling very bereft. We were also losing our President as Mr Vinter had said that he wished to retire from that office. Mr. Durell paid a tribute to his 10 years as President and to the great interest which he, and Mrs Vinter, had always taken in the Local History Council, and expressed our great gratitude to them both. We were very pleased that Dr E. Miller, Master of Fitzwilliam College, had consented to become our President. Dr Miller had been one of the founder members of the Council. Mr. Kirby, the Hon. Secretary was unable to be present but Mr Forbes of the Community Council dealt with the business.

Mr Durell was elected as Chairman, Mrs Moullin as Vice-Chairman, Mrs McEwan as Hon. Treasurer (as Mr Threlfall was unable to continue as Treasurer) and as Excursions Secretary. The other members of the Executive were re-elected (with the exception of Mr Farrar who withdrew) new members were Miss M. Clarke and Mr A. Pye.

Presenting his last report as Treasurer Mr Threlfall said the balance in hand was £104. The membership consists of 234 individuals, which includes, 12 Honorary members (that is over 80 years).

The Committee dealing with the Schools Essay had received three entries, all of which were very well done, and each of them received a prize of £5.

Mr Farrar reported that the Research Publications Group had had three meetings in the past year. The meeting then adjourned and Dr E. Miller, deputy chairman of the Blake Committee to review Local

History, spoke about the Committee's Report.

Back Numbers of the Bulletin

We would like to draw your attention to the availability of some back numbers. These are mainly of more recent date, the older issues are rather rare, and if members have any of these (up to about Bulletin 21) which they do not want, such Bulletins would be gratefully received by the Editor or by the staff at Great Eastern House.

Below are a few of the more recent issues, with a brief list of the main contents.

1975

Pauper Inventories I
Trade Tokens of 17th and 18th centuries
Enclosure at Dry Drayton
John Bois, Rector of Boxworth
Cambridge's 1st Railway I
Weigh House, Coldham's Common

1976

Pauper Inventories II
Cambridge's 1st Railway II
Bushmead Priory
Life in Tadlow
John Pamphilon
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1977

Silver Jubilee of L.H.C.
Cambs. Dialect 50 years ago
Cambs County Constabulary
Industrial Development in Newmarket
Road Area.
St. Peter's Church, Cambridge
Asplen Family of Quy

IN MEMORIAM: Geoffrey Wood

The loss of Geoffrey Wood to the Local History Council for Cambridgeshire will be lamented by all members of the Council, and in particular, those with whom he was closely associated. I think it is fair to say that it is probable that the Society would never have flourished as it has had it not been for him.

He became a member in 1952, from 1956 to 1960 he was Honorary Secretary, and during the same period from 1959 to 1967, he was editor of *The Bulletin*. He became Chairman in 1968, and additionally, in the last year, he took on the responsibility of Excursions secretary.

He was one of those happy, benign people who never, to my knowledge fell out with anyone. He chaired our meetings over the last ten years in a fair, happy way which engendered smiling faces all round, and made the meetings of the Council something to be looked forward to.

He was interested in the work of the local history societies all over the country and represented us regularly for a long time at the annual meetings in London of the Standing Conference for Local History. He will be sadly missed, and our sincerest sympathies go to his wife and family.

G.O.V.

The picture on the front cover has been kindly lent by the Cambridgeshire Collection. It is of a house in Ely drawn by W. West in 1915, but its location is not known.

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